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***From the Office of the Director of Health***

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**SUBJECT: Community Health Report Card**

In honor of Public Health Month, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is pleased to announce the release of the Fourth Annual Community Health Report Card. This year's report card not only focuses on the sixteen indicators but also provides a historical look at tuberculosis and the advances in its treatment and prevention as a result of public health efforts.

Sixteen indicators are used to assess the health of our community and cover the areas of maternal health, children's health and wellness, communicable disease, and deaths. "While many of the indicators remained the same; we do see a decline in tuberculosis, a disease that has plagued man for centuries and claimed countless lives," reports Director of Health, Harold Bengsch.

The downward trend continues for the second straight year in reported child abuse and neglect cases and death resulting from motor vehicle crashes. However, disappointedly, statistics show a rise in breast cancer deaths and suicide. Bengsch states, "Gonorrhea has also risen significantly and our department is working on a strategy to address this growing public health concern."

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